

REMARKS

Careful consideration has been given by the applicants to the Examiner's comments and rejection of the claims, as set forth in the outstanding Office Action, and favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, as amended, is earnestly solicited.

Applicants note the Examiner's entry into the present file of the translation of the parent German application 10302322.4 and applicants submission of the Declaration pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.131, which has obviated the Examiner's reference to Berman, et al., U.S. Publication No. 2004/0135522 A1 (now U.S. Patent No. 7,148,632 B2).

However, applicants note that the Examiner has again cited new references with regard to the claims, as presently on file.

In particular, applicants note the Examiner's citation of Pross, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,396,466 B1 in rejecting Claims 1, 3, 7 and 8-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable in combination with Alexanderson, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,871,981 B2, as detailed in the Office Action.

However, contrary to the Examiner's comments and application of the art to the currently pending claims, and additionally, the citation of applicants' own earlier U.S. patent to Fleischmann, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,203,180 B1 to Claims 10-27 in view of Berman (the latter of which has been withdrawn as a reference and, consequently, is not applicable), the claims, as presently on file and as amended herein, clearly and unambiguously distinguish over the prior art, as well as the newly cited publications set forth in the Office Action.

However, in order to still further distinguish over the art, although in essence, the independent claims, Claims 1, 12 and 20, are deemed to be substantially patentable over the

combination of the prior art publications, as cited herein, applicants have eliminated the term in the introductory portion of each claim “for providing selective illuminated information, displays and signs” inasmuch as this is an optional feature set forth in the dependent claims. Moreover, in each of Claims 1, 12 and 20, applicants have inserted the further limitation with respect to the light emitting diodes that these are actuatable so as to selectively represent flashing, twinkling, color change or moving lights.

None of the foregoing aspects, as set forth in the present claims and as disclosed herein, and the actuation of the diodes and lighting units can be ascertained from the art of record.

Reverting in particular to the art, Alexanderson, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,871,981 B2 discloses nothing further than the state-of-the-art acknowledged in the introductory portion of the present specification and as more clearly disclosed in applicants’ own earlier U.S. Patent No. 6,203,180 B1 to Fleischmann, et al. Consequently, Alexanderson, et al. does not in any manner disclose any features that are deemed to be applicable to the invention as claimed.

Even combining Alexanderson, et al., with the newly cited Pross, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,396,466 B1, would render the present invention obvious to one skilled in this particular technology.

Reverting to Pross, et al., the latter disclose a display light for vehicles, for example, a light such as a taillight, brake light, or directional blinkers and emergency blinkers for automobiles, referring to Column 1, line 7, as well as lines 17 and 18. There is no disclosure nor any suggestion of being capable of utilizing the arrangement in Pross, et al. for a lighting system for the interior illumination of an aircraft cabin, as set forth and claimed in the present application. Pross, et al., is completely incapable of providing a lighting system for aircraft, as

described and claimed herein, and pertains to a limited application in a different field of technology, in effect, as mentioned hereinabove, display light for automobiles of the type set forth. One skilled in this art would never consider utilizing or considering Pross, et al. with regard to installation of a system of that type in aircraft interior when it relates to a active elimination of the interior space or cabin and not only to the passive illumination of a display, such as an automotive taillight, brake light and the like.

Even combining Pross, et al. with Alexanderson, et al., or any other prior art publications cited by the Examiner and as known in the state of the technology, would not render it obvious to provide a system as set forth and claimed herein.

Otherwise, it would be difficult to explain the manner in which the company Color Kinetics, Inc. has been able to obtain its U.S. Patent No. 6,016,038 to Miller, et al. and the therewith associated patent family, whereby, however, the independent PWM control of differently colored light emitting diodes would already be considered known for display purposes and would be, however, deemed assumed novel and inventive for illumination purposes.

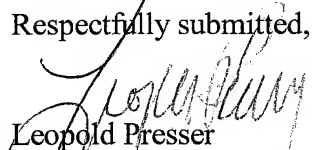
In addition thereto, it is not ascertainable in any manner as to how Pross, et al. would describe an independent actuation of the different LED chains. In contrast, in Column 4, lines 39-45, there is merely set forth a discussion that in each of the branches which are connected to the logic control circuit 8, a current source 15 provides for the aspect that a constant current flows in the therewith in parallel connected LED chains. There is no discussion nor disclosure or even suggestion in Pross, et al. of an independent individual actuation of the different LED chains.

Moreover, there is no suggestion for one of skill in the art of commencing from Alexanderson, et al. to derive the three (3) steps which are mentioned by the Examiner in the middle of Page 4 of the Office Action, and the prior art would not in any manner lead one of skill in the art even remotely suggest the present invention, as set forth in the claims.

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing comments and amendments, which clearly and unambiguously distinguish over the combination of Alexanderson, et al. and Pross, et al., as well as Fleischmann, et al., the claims presented herein are deemed to clearly and patentably distinguish thereover, as well as any other art which has been previously and currently cited in this Office Action and the preceding prosecution.

In view of the foregoing comments and amendments, which are deemed to be fully responsive to the Examiner's rejection of the claims, the early and favorable reconsideration of the application and issuance of the Notice of Allowance by the Examiner is earnestly solicited. However, in the event that the Examiner has any queries concerning the instantly submitted Amendment, applicants' attorney respectfully requests that he be accorded the courtesy of possibly a telephone conference to discuss any matters in need of attention.

Respectfully submitted,


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